

Case 2856

Psittacus banksii Latham, 1790 and *P. lathamii* Temminck, 1807
(currently *Calyptorhynchus banksii* and *C. lathamii*; Aves,
Psittaciformes): proposed conservation of the specific names

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific names of both the Australian Glossy Black Cockatoo, which has the universally accepted name *Calyptorhynchus lathamii* (Temminck, 1807), and the Australian Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* (Latham, 1790). In recent years *C. banksii* has commonly been called *C. magnificus* (Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790). Shaw's name actually applies to the Glossy Black Cockatoo, *C. lathamii* (Temminck, 1807). *C. lathamii* is threatened not only by *Psittacus magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790 but also by *P. banksii flavicollis* Kerr, 1792, an unused senior synonym. It is proposed that confusion will be avoided by the suppression of the specific names *magnificus* and *flavicollis*, so that the Red-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos are validly named *C. banksii* and *C. lathamii* respectively.

1. The two large Australian black cockatoos possessing red patches in the tail have long been known as *Calyptorhynchus banksii* (Latham, 1790), the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and *C. lathamii* (Temminck, 1807), the Glossy Black Cockatoo. Unfortunately these names acquired a tangled nomenclatural history from 1927 when Mathews (1927, p. 223) concluded that *Psittacus magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790 applied to the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and had priority over *P. banksii* Latham, 1790. Nevertheless, the specific name *banksii* Latham, 1790 maintained general currency in the Australian literature until the late 1960's because of its use in the *Official checklist of the birds of Australia* (R.A.O.U., 1926), which was not finally superseded until 1975.

2. The specific name of *P. banksii* Latham, 1790 (p. 107) is based on a female Red-tailed Black Cockatoo collected by Joseph Banks's party on the Endeavour River during James Cook's first voyage to Australia (see Parkinson, 1773, p. 144, pl. 10; Sharpe, 1906, p. 173 and Whittell, 1954, pl. 2). This specimen may be the female acquired by the Natural History Museum in Vienna from the sale of the Leverian Museum (sale catalogue no. 311; see Pelzeln, 1873, p. 33). The identification of the specimen BM(NH) 1863.7.7.53 in the Natural History Museum, London, as the 'type' of *banksii* by Salvadori (1891, p. 110) was rejected by Warren (1966, p. 29).

3. The specific name of *Calyptorhynchus magnificus* (Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790, pl. 50), now in general use for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, actually applies according to its original description and plate to a different species, the Glossy Black Cockatoo *C. lathami* (Temminck, 1807, p. 21). Nodder's figure of *Psittacus magnificus* accompanying Shaw's description has a bulbous horn-brown maxilla, a discrete yellowish red band in the tail, ochreish feathers on the cheeks and head, and ochreish bars restricted to the belly on the ventral surface. These traits are consistent with a young female Glossy Black Cockatoo, not with a Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Shaw and Nodder's material of *P. magnificus* was evidently obtained through Surgeon-General John White of the First Fleet at Port Jackson (i.e. Sydney; see Lysaght, 1956, p. 273) within the range of the Glossy Black Cockatoo. Records of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo have never been confirmed so far south on the east Australian coast. White's material passed to the Leverian Museum and was lost following disposal of that museum (see Sharpe, 1906 and Mullens, 1916).

4. The Glossy Black Cockatoo has been known universally as *Calyptorhynchus lathami* for over 70 years, ever since Mathews (1917, p. 125) concluded that *Psittacus lathami* Temminck, 1807 was the earliest name for this species. The adult male holotype, in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, is of this species. However, *P. lathami* Temminck, 1807 was preceded not only by *P. magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790 (para. 3 above) but also by *P. banksi flavicollo* Kerr, 1792 (p. 586), which is unused. The description of *P. banksi flavicollo* was based on *P. banksii* var. β in Latham, 1790 (p. 107), which is the Glossy Black Cockatoo. This was appreciated by Salvadori (1891, p. 112), but most workers (e.g. Condon, 1975) have followed Mathews (1917, pp. 100, 104) in interpreting *P. banksi flavicollo* Kerr, 1792 as a junior synonym of *P. magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790 (= *P. banksii* Latham, 1790), the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Kerr's name has never been used as valid for any taxon of black cockatoos and the type material is evidently lost.

5. The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) of the International Ornithological Congress reviewed the history of these names at its meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand in December 1990. It concluded, to avoid nomenclatural confusion and instability as well as taxonomic and geographic uncertainty, that the names *Psittacus magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790 and *P. banksi flavicollo* Kerr, 1792 should be suppressed, and that both *P. banksii* Latham, 1790 and *P. lathami* Temminck, 1807 should be conserved.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790, as published in the binomen *Psittacus magnificus*;
 - (b) *flavicollo* Kerr, 1792, as published in the trinomen *Psittacus banksi flavicollo*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *banksii* Latham, 1790, as published in the binomen *Psittacus banksii*;
 - (b) *lathami* Temminck, 1807, as published in the binomen *Psittacus lathami*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

- (a) *magnificus* Shaw in Shaw & Nodder, 1790, as published in the binomen *Psittacus magnificus* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
- (b) *flavicollo* Kerr, 1792, as published in the trinomen *Psittacus banksi flavicollo* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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